

Building Capacity to Use Geospatial Technology for Development in Africa: Lessons from the Uganda GIS Project

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Background

- **The Ghana GIS Project**
- **The Uganda Local Government Act of 1997**
 - **The Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) Mandate**
 - **The Central Problem of Local Government Planning**
 - **The Local Government Information Communication System (LoGICS)**

Background

- **Evaluation of LoGICS Pilot**
 - Recommendation
 - Integrate GIS
- **Implementation of Integration of GIS into LoGICS**
 - Submission of Grant
 - No GIS Training Component
- **Call for Help – To Assess Training Needs that will Build Capacity to Use GIS in Local Government Planning**

Assessing Training Needs for Building Capacity in GIS

- **Some Timely Precursors**
 - Capacity Building
 - The Down to Earth Publication
 - Interest in Applied Research
- **Methodology**
 - MoLG Staff
 - Government Departments
 - Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)
 - Makerere University – Geography Department and Makerere Institute of Environment and Natural Resources (MUIENR)
 - Jinja and Tororo Districts

Assessing Training Needs for Building Capacity in GIS

■ Major Findings

– Conception of Capacity Building

- Project-based GIS
- Single-targeted
- Single-layered

– Implementation Methods

- Training the “Wrong” Personnel
- Weak Follow-up
- No Mechanism for Sustainability

Assessing Training Needs for Building Capacity in GIS

■ Major Recommendations

– Short-term

- Train the MoLG Planners to Use GIS

– Long-term

- Equip Makerere University to Build GIS Capacity

- Undergraduate Level

- Graduate Level – Applied GIS Research

■ Results – Invitation to Submit a Grant

Project Design

■ Objectives

- To Build Capacity to Use GIS in Local Government Planning through
 - Training of District Planners to use GIS
 - Establishment of GIS Teaching and Research Lab at MU
 - Development of Undergraduate GIS program at MU
 - Strengthening of Applied GIS Research at Graduate Level at MU

Project Design

■ Deliverables

- District Planners will use GIS in Planning Activities
- A Modern GIS Lab at MU
- Undergraduate option in GIS in the Dept. of Geography and MUIENR
- Two graduate students at the Master's Level

Project Design

- **Project Activities and Stakeholders**
 - Development of Training Modules and Material – UWSP
 - Training of Planners – UWSP, MU, & MoLG
 - Establishment of GIS Labs – UWSP & MU
 - Undergraduate GIS Curriculum – UWSP & MU
 - Graduate Training – FORUM, MUIENR

Project Design

■ Project Time Line

– Year 1: 2004-2005

- Development of Training Manual
- Development of Laboratories
- Curriculum Development
- Offer Graduate Fellowship
- Pilot Training
- Follow-up with Pilot Trainees

Project Design

■ Project Time Line

- Year 2: 2005-2006

- Train all Planners

- Implement Curriculum

- Graduate Students Begin

- Year 3: 2006 -2007

- Follow-up Activities

- Year 4: 2007-2008

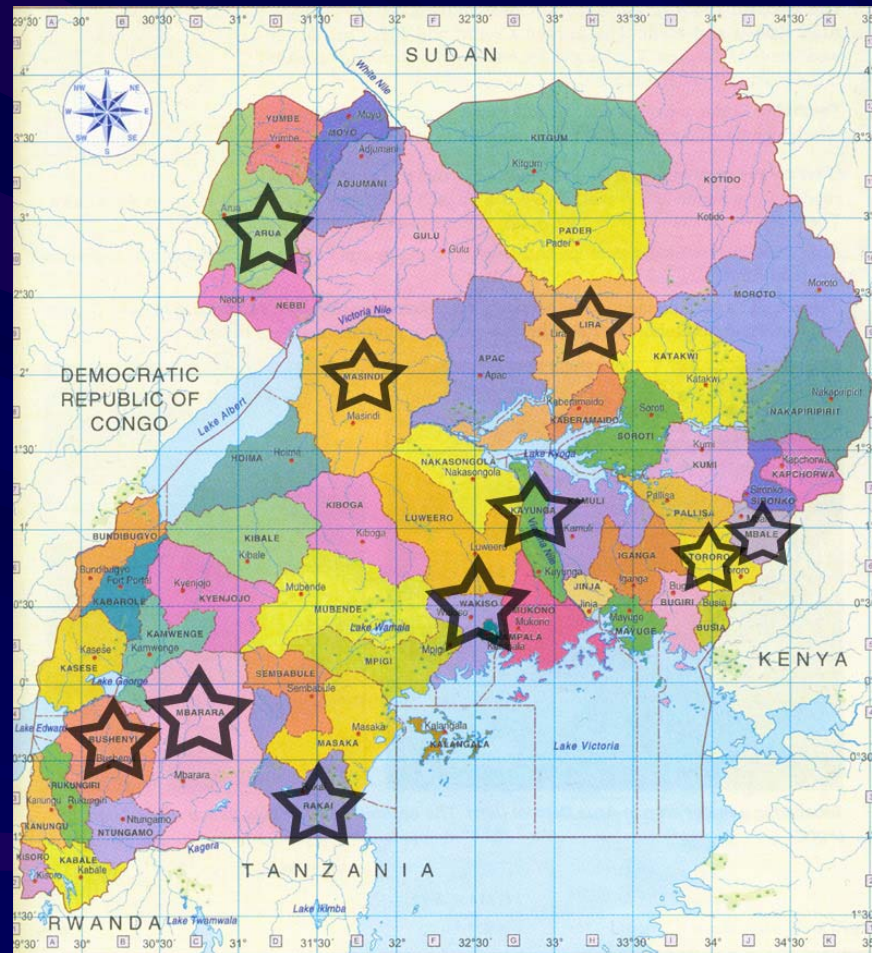
- Follow Up

- Evaluation & Wrap Up

Project Implementation

- **Grant Approval – December 2004**
- **Disbursement of First Year Funds- January 2005**
- **Signing of MoU – January 2005**

Project Focus Areas



Project Activities: Experience from the First Year

- **Development of Training Material**
 - Data Problems
- **Establishment of GIS Labs**
 - Institutional Structures at MU
 - From Advisor to Procurement Agent
 - Problems of Securing Equipment
- **The Training that Almost....**
 - The Software Problem

Project Activities: Experience from the First Year

- **The Training that Almost...**
 - **The MoLG Logistical Support Problem**
 - **The Stalemate in Kampala**
 - **July 8 – Meeting with PPD of MoLG**
 - **Training Postponed to Wed, July 13**
 - **July 12 – PPD postponed training to Thursday July 14**
 - **July 13 – Decisive Action**

Project Implementation: The First Year

■ The Training that Almost...

– The Training At Last

- Ten Districts and Two Municipalities
- Seven-day Intensive Training
- Evaluation

■ Aftermath

- Initial Fallout
- Attempts to Secure Support at MoLG
- New Hope

Project Implementation: The Second Year

- **Change in Plans**
 - The Follow-Up Training
 - Evaluation
- **Recommendation for Follow-up**
- **Change in Project Leadership**

Project Implementation: The Third

- **Follow-up Funding**
 - Makerere University
- **Evaluation and Wrap up-2008**

Conclusion and Lessons

- Need for a two-pronged approach
- Emphasize Infrastructure
- Need for Government support and practical commitment
- Expensive and long-term commitment needed